

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433) in view of Mastera et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,315,666). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Mastera teaches a gaming machine having a secondary display for providing video content. The gaming machine includes main and secondary displays. The secondary display is disposed apart from the primary display and is used for presenting primary, secondary, or even tertiary information. The main display is controlled electronically by a gaming machine controller, which main display presents the results of a play on the gaming machine. In the case of a slot machine, the main display may be the glass display through which the spinning reels of a game play are viewed. In a video poker gaming machine, the main display is usually a cathode ray tube ("CRT") which displays a video game image to the player and other information directly associated with the game play. The secondary display may be provided at various locations on the gaming machine such as in a top glass portion of the gaming machine or a belly glass portion of the gaming machine, which belly glass portion is located below a main display portion of the gaming machine. The secondary display itself may be a liquid crystal display, a cathode ray tube, a field emission display, a plasma display, a digital micro-mirror device (DMD), etc.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device, a lottery device, a stop device and an optically transmissive electric display device. Claim 1 recites that the variable display device is attached to a front

door body of the gaming machine with the variable display device including a plurality of rotatable reels with each reel having a plurality of symbols for variable display. Claim 1 further recites that the lottery device executes a lottery of a winning combination and the stop device controls the variable display device to shift from variably displaying the plurality of symbols to statically displaying at least one of the plurality of symbols based on a result of the lottery with the stop device including a plurality of stop elements with each one of the plurality of stop elements being associated with a respective one of the plurality of rotatable reels. Additionally, claimed 1 recites that the optically transmissive electric display device is provided in front of the variable display device. Furthermore, claimed 1 recites that the stop elements are operable by a player and are attached to the front door body, the stop elements are provided below the variable display device, a lower display device is provided below the stop elements, that is also attached to the front door body, and displays images on the basis of image data stored in the image ROM of a lower display panel image control circuit and the combination of the front door body, the variable display means, the optically transmissive electric display device, the one or more stop buttons and the lower display device is adapted to be used with different games by replacing the image data stored in the image ROM.

Further, claim 1 recites that the optically transmissive electric display device is operative in a series of modes such that, for an initial mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel and, when the stop element associated with the rotating reel is activated by the player, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a selected one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel and, for a subsequent mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel and, when the stop element associated with the rotating reel is activated by the player, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a select one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the optically transmissive electric display device is operative in a series of modes such that, for an initial mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel and, when the stop element associated with the rotating reel is activated by the player, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a selected one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel and, for a subsequent mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel and, when the stop element associated with the rotating reel is activated by the player, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a select one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine for executing a lottery of a winning combination being composed of a combination of a plurality of symbols. Claim 4 recites that the gaming machine includes a variable display device, a plurality of stop buttons and an optically transmissive electric display device. Claim 4 recites that the variable display device is attached to a front door body of the gaming machine and includes a plurality of rotatable reels with each reel having a plurality of symbols for variable display. Claim 4 also recites that the plurality of stop buttons is provided below the variable display device, is attached to the front door body with the plurality of the stop buttons being utilized for controlling the variable display device to shift from variably displaying the plurality of symbols to statically displaying at least one of the plurality of symbols. Also, claim 4 recites that each one of the plurality of stop buttons is

associated with a respective one of the plurality of rotatable reels. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the electric display device is provided below the plurality of stop buttons, is attached to the front door body and displays images on the basis of image data stored in the image ROM of a lower display panel image control circuit. Further, claim 4 recites that the optically transmissive electric display device is provided in front of the variable display device.

Furthermore, claim 4 recites that the combination of the front door body, the variable display means, the electric display device, the one or more stop buttons and the lower display means is adapted to be used with different games by replacing the image data stored in the image ROM. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the optically transmissive electric display device is operative in a series of modes such that, for an initial mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel and, when the stop button associated with the rotating reel is activated, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a selected one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel and, for a subsequent mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel and, when the stop button associated with the rotating reel is activated, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a select one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the optically transmissive electric display device is operative in a series of modes such that, for an initial mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel and, when the stop button associated with the rotating reel is activated, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a selected one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel and, for a subsequent mode, the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only one rotating reel

along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel and, when the stop button associated with the rotating reel is activated, the rotating reel stops and the optically transmissive electric display device reveals only a select one of the plurality of symbols on the stopped reel along with the previously selected one of the plurality of symbols on the previously stopped reel. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4 encompass the features illustrated in Figures 16A-16C.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claims 5 and 7-9 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

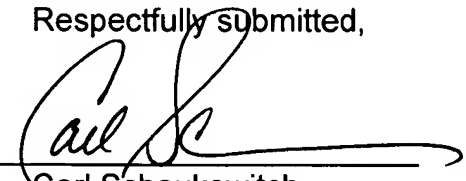
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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